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**Imagery analysis report**

## **Summary of Force Activity and Changes in the Kiev Military District (S)**

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## **SUMMARY OF FORCE ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN THE KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT (S)**

1. (C) This is the first NPIC summary report on ground force activity within the Kiev Military District (MD). It provides a general summary of significant ground force activity observed within the district during the past three years and reflects the status of activity in the MD through [redacted]

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2. (S/D) Activity and changes associated with nondivisional units in the Kiev MD during this reporting period included the upgrading of the 6th Tank Army artillery brigade at Novomoskovsk to a front-level artillery division; the upgrading of an antiaircraft artillery (AAA) brigade to an AAA division at Cherkassy; the establishment of probable chemical defense brigades with army-level chemical defense battalions at Krivoy Rog and Zheved; a new mine clearing vehicle and a new tracked heavy ferry in the engineer regiment/brigade at Brovary; a possible electronic countermeasure (ECM) communications jamming (COMJAM) unit in Brovary; and the possible deployment of an early warning regiment in the Chuguyev area (Figure 1).

3. (S/D) Activity and changes observed within front subordinate combat maneuver divisions during this reporting period included the arrival of a combat reserve or independent T-64-equipped tank regiment in the 48th Tank Division (training) at Vypolzov and Zheved; the departure of the 4th Guards Motorized Rifle Division (GMRD) from Voroshilovgrad; the arrival of a possible cadre-strength independent motorized rifle regiment (MRR) in Kommunarisk; and the arrival of a possible tank division in Artemovsk (Figure 1).

4. (S/D) Changes observed within 6th Tank Army combat maneuver divisions during this reporting period included possible augmentation of the 75th Guards Tank Division (GTD) at Chuguyev with 122mm SP howitzers M-1974 and the arrival at Krivoy Rog of T-10 heavy tanks [redacted] In the 1st Guards Army (GA) during this reporting period, at least two tank regiments of the 41st GTD were augmented with BMP armored personnel companies; the tank regiment of the 72nd GMRD was equipped with T-64 medium tanks and was augmented with a 122mm howitzer D-30 battalion; and elements of a second-generation division were identified with the 81st GMRD at Konotop (Figure 1).

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### **Artillery Division at Novomoskovsk**

5. (S/D) Artillery at Novomoskovsk Army Barracks N AL 2 [redacted] indicated that the artillery division for the Kiev MD was garrisoned there. Equipment present on [redacted] included fifty-three 152mm gun howitzers ML-20, fifty-four 152mm gun howitzers D-20, six 152mm howitzers, seventy-four 130mm field guns M-46, and two field guns. This equipment has been present since at least [redacted]

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6. (S/D) This is the first artillery division identified in the Kiev MD. The artillery brigade for the 6th Tank Army was previously reported at Novomoskovsk; however, the disposition of the brigade is uncertain. Two possible options are that the brigade may have been integrated into the division, or it may have moved elsewhere.

7. (S/D) Equipment at Cherkassy Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED] indicated that the previously reported AAA brigade has been upgraded to an AAA division. This unit has been present since at least [REDACTED]. Equipment observed on recent imagery consisted of 48 SA-2 missile transporters and nineteen 100mm AA guns KS-19. SA-2 equipment is usually assigned to division level and has not been observed with AAA brigades. AAA brigades have been identified at Krivoy Rog in the Kiev MD, Yeysk in the North Caucasus MD, and Lagodekhi in the Transcaucasus MD. Other AAA divisions have been reported at Varfolomeyevka in the Far East MD, Osh in the Central Asia MD, Zhitomir in the Carpathian MD, and Volka in the Belorussian MD. An AAA brigade/division was at Chelyabin in the Ural MD.

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8. (S/D) The chemical defense battalion for the 6th Tank Army reported at Krivoy Rog Army Barracks AL 2 [ ] is collocated with a probable chemical defense brigade in storage at that facility. Approximately 300 ARS-12/14 decontamination vehicles have been present since at least [ ]

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9. (S/D) This same pattern was seen at Zheved Army Barracks AL 1/Reserve Equipment Storage (RES EQ STG)/Surface-to-Air Missile Support (SAM SPT; [ ]) which houses the chemical defense battalion for the 1st GA (Figure 2). Approximately 200 ARS-12/14 decontamination vehicles have been in storage at this installation since at least September 1977. The surplus of chemical defense equipment at these installations suggests that the chemical defense battalions may expand to brigades in wartime. The front-level chemical defense brigade for the Kiev MD is housed at Kharkov Army Barracks SSE AL 8 [ ]

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**New Engineer Equipment**

10. (S/D) Two new pieces of engineer equipment were identified with the engineer regiment/brigade housed at Brovary Army Barracks AL 1 [ ]. The Brovary-02-SP ponton ferry (NPIC designator), a wheeled vehicle which may be a follow-on to the tracked GSP heavy amphibious ferry, was initially identified at Brovary AL 1 on [ ]. It has also been observed with the engineer regiment housed at Akhtyrka Army Barracks AL 1 [ ]. The mine clearing vehicle M-1979 was also first identified at Brovary AL 1 on [ ]. Although it appears to operate along the same lines as the UR-67 mine clearing vehicle, the M-1979 uses the 122mm SP howitzer M-1974 chassis.

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**Electronics-Associated Activity**

11. (S/D) A possible ECM (COMJAM) unit may be housed at Brovary AL 1, but its presence could not be confirmed on recent imagery. On [ ] a SPIKE SQUARE, an R-330, and a FULL HOUSE receiver van truck were observed in an area which houses an unidentified unit.

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12. (S/D) An early warning (EW) regiment is probably housed in the Chuguyev area. This analysis is based on field-training exercises observed in the July-August time frame in 1978, 1979, and 1980 at Chuguyev Training Area SE ([ ]). The home garrison for this unit has not been identified. The front-level EW regiment for Kiev MD is at Fastov Army Barracks SW AL 1 [ ]. Chuguyev is approximately 245 nm east of Fastov.

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**Front Subordinate Combat Maneuver Division**

13. (S/D) The 48th tank division (training) is at Vypolzov Army Barracks AL 1 [ ]. [ ] This division is probably the show and demonstration unit for Kiev. A tank regiment at Zheved Army Barracks AL 1/RES EQ STG/SAM SPT has reportedly been associated with this division. However, three tank regiments are at Vypolzov AL 1, and it could not be determined if the Zheved tank regiment is a fourth tank regiment for this division or an independent unit. Two

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tank regiments at Vypolzov AL 1 are T-64 equipped, and T-64 tanks were seen in the Zheved tank regiment on [REDACTED]. The T-64 tanks at Zheved appeared to be in storage and may represent a war reserve which is common in training divisions (Figure 2). The T-64 tanks have replaced T-10 heavy tanks, previously seen in open storage within this tank regiment area.

14. (S/D) A second front subordinate division in Kiev, the 4th GMRD headquartered in Voroshilovgrad, has been out of garrison since late February-early March 1980 and has been reported in Afghanistan. Formerly equipped with BTR-152 armored personnel carriers (APC), this division probably received BTR-60 APC from the second generation base at Belaya Tserkov Army Barracks AL 2 [REDACTED]. Approximately 150 BTR-60 departed Belaya Tserkov on [REDACTED] and have remained out of garrison through the remainder of this reporting period. Divisional equipment left behind at Voroshilovgrad may indicate an intention to maintain a second generation base in that city.

15. (S/D) The MRR housed at Kommunarsk Army Barracks East AL 1 [REDACTED] has been reportedly associated with the 4th GMRD. However, with three MRR formerly housed in Voroshilovgrad and no appreciable change in activity levels at Kommunarsk when the 4th GMRD reportedly left for Afghanistan, it is probable that the Kommunarsk MRR is an independent, cadre-strength unit. Analysis of this unit is continuing.

16. (S/D) An unidentified front subordinate maneuver division is housed at Artemovsk Army Barracks Central AL 3 [REDACTED]. It has previously been reported as an MRD, but sufficient signature equipment has not been present in open storage during this reporting period to confirm or deny its presence. However, equipment and facilities do suggest the possible presence of a tank division. Analysis of this unit is also continuing.

#### 6th Tank Army

17. (S/D) In the 75th GTD, two 122mm SP howitzers M-1974 were observed at Chuguyev Training Area SE [REDACTED] on four separate occasions between [REDACTED]. This activity may indicate an intent to augment/reorganize one or more of the tank regiments housed at Chuguyev Army Barracks AL 4 [REDACTED] which is adjacent to the training area. However, the SP guns have not been observed in garrison, either with the tank regiment at Chuguyev AL 4 or the divisional MRR housed at Chuguyev Army Barracks SE AL 1 [REDACTED].

18. (S/D) In the second generation tank division at Krivoy Rog Army Barracks AL 2 (BE [REDACTED]) 188 additional T-10 heavy tanks were observed on [REDACTED]. This activity corresponded with a similar decrease in the same timeframe at [REDACTED]. The T-10s were subsequently relocated to a new vehicle park under construction at the southwest corner of

Krivoy Rog AL 2 and will apparently stay in storage in that area. At least 500 T-10 tanks are now at the facility.

#### 1st Guards Army

19. (S/D) In the 41st GTD, two tank regiments housed at Cherkassy Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED] were augmented with BMP motorized rifle companies by [REDACTED]. Neither of these two regiments was previously equipped with motorized rifle companies.

20. (S/D) In the 72nd GMRD, the tank regiment housed at Zheved Army Barracks AL 1/RES EQ STG/SAM SPT [REDACTED] was augmented with a howitzer battalion by [REDACTED] when twelve 122mm Howitzers D-30 were present (Figure 2). At least 16 T-64 and 35 probable T-64 medium tanks were also identified with this regiment. Previously identified T-10 heavy tanks in storage were still present.

21. (S/D) Konotop Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED], previously identified as housing the 81st GMRD, houses elements of a second-generation MRD as well (Figure 3). Supporting evidence indicates the following: at least six antitank battalions (an MRD normally has four); two ponton bridge companies and elements of two assault crossing companies in the divisional engineer battalion area (only one of each is standard); and five regimental engineer companies and six chemical defense companies (only four of each is normal).

#### REFERENCES

##### IMAGERY

(S/D) All relevant satellite imagery acquired from [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report.

##### RELATED DOCUMENTS

DIA. DDB-1100-221-79, *Soviet AA Divisions: An Initial Assessment* (U), Mar 79 (SECRET) [REDACTED]

DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB) — USSR*, Mar 79 (SECRET) [REDACTED]

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]



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